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hand

hand

hand [hand]

noun (*plural hands*)

Definition:

1. end of human arm: the part of the human arm below the wrist, consisting of a thumb, four fingers, and a palm and capable of holding and manipulating things

2. animal part corresponding to human hand: the part of an animal's limb that corresponds to a human hand in shape or function

3. pointer on clock: a pointer on a clock, watch, dial, or gauge

4. player's cards: the cards dealt to a player in a card game

- *a losing hand*

5. round in card game: a round in a card game

- *played one last hand of bridge*

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6. **card player:** somebody who plays a card game

7. **part in doing something:** a share in the performance of an action

- *Who else had a hand in this?*

8. **help:** help to do something

- *Give me a hand.*

9. **offer of agreement:** a sign of agreement or acceptance, especially of an offer of marriage

- *Here's my hand on it.*

10. **side:** side or direction

- *surrounded by enemies at every hand*

11. **clap:** a round of applause

- *a big hand for our next contestant*

12. **possession or power:** the possession, power, responsibility, or care of somebody (usually used in the plural)

- *Your future is in your own hands.*

13. **degree of closeness to source:** a degree of closeness to actual involvement in something being talked about

- *I heard about it third hand.*

14. **member of ship's crew:** a member of the crew of a vessel

- *Attention, all hands!*

15. **somebody doing or making something:** a maker or doer of something, especially to a particular level of competence or experience

- *I'm an old hand at this.*

16. **worker:** a worker, especially one doing manual or farm work

- *a ranch hand*

17. **handwriting:** somebody's handwriting

- *an admirably clear hand*

18. **skill:** ability or skill

- *She has a good hand for gardening.*

19. **approach or method:** a distinctive way of doing something

- *This drawing is executed with the hand of a master.*



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More information

20. **U.S. TEXTILES** fabric texture: the feel of a textile, used to determine its quality.
Canadian term handle

21. **SHOW JUMPING** measure of horse's height: a measure of the height of a horse, equal to 10.2 cm (4 in)

verb (*past and past participle* handed, *present participle* handing, *3rd person present singular* hands)

Definition:

1. **transitive verb** pass something by hand: to pass something to somebody by hand
• *She handed me a glass.*

2. **transitive verb** lead somebody by hand: to help or lead somebody by the hand
• *She handed her aunt into the taxi.*

3. **transitive and intransitive verb** SAILING furl: to furl a sail

[Old English< Germanic]

all hands on deck

1. used as a call or signal for all members of a ship's crew to assemble on deck, e.g. in an emergency

2. used to indicate that help is required from everybody available
• *When the truck arrives, we'll need all hands on deck.*

at hand

1. nearby
2. about to happen

by hand not using a machine

change hands to pass to a different owner

force somebody's hand to pressure somebody to do something against his or her will or earlier than planned

(from) hand to mouth with barely enough to live on for your daily needs

hand in glove in cooperation with somebody, usually for some secret or illegal purpose

hand in hand

1. in close cooperation
2. inseparably closely
3. holding hands

hand over fist in large quantities or amounts

- * *losing money hand over fist*

hold somebody's hand to provide reassurance, guidance, and support to somebody

in hand

1. under control
2. remaining or unused

not turn a hand to make no attempt to help somebody

off somebody's hands no longer somebody's responsibility or problem

on hand near and available

on the one hand...on the other hand... used to present two conflicting aspects of a situation

- * *On the one hand we have plenty of time, but on the other hand our resources are limited.*

out of hand

1. out of control
 - * *The situation's getting out of hand.*
2. immediately and without consideration or explanation
 - * *My suggestions were dismissed out of hand.*

out of somebody's hands unable to be influenced by somebody

overplay your hand to make overconfident

use of an advantage and fail as a result

put your hand up to

1. to volunteer to do something

* *If you want to get into this type of work, put your hand up to do unpaid work experience.*

2. to acknowledge or accept something

* *You have an ethical and professional obligation to put your hand up to this problem.*

show or tip your hand to reveal your plans or intentions

take somebody or something in hand to begin to bring somebody or something under control

throw in your hand

1. to admit defeat in a card game by laying your cards down

2. to admit or accept defeat

to hand close by

try your hand at something to make an attempt at something, usually for the first time

turn your hand to something to do something for the first time and be competent at it

wait on somebody hand and foot to attend to somebody's every need, often with bad grace

wash your hands of somebody or something to refuse to continue being responsible for somebody or something

Regional History

Referring to a farm worker, the term **hand** is most commonly found in the South Midland territory, from Kentucky to Texas, and the Lower South. The terms *cowhand*, *farm hand*, and *field hand* respectively characterize Western, Northern, and Southern dialects. The general-currency words are *hired hand* and *hired man*, which recur throughout the country but are most common in the

North.

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